

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ACTION SUMMARY
Thursday, February 28, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building – Board Chambers
2101 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Trujillo at 6:00 p.m. Board Members present: Clark, Goold, Granados, Kelly, Lawson, Trujillo, Valley. Directors Engellenner, Jones, absent. Staff: Fire Chief Mette, General Counsel Margarita, Board Clerk Tilson.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

METRO CABLE 14 ANNOUNCEMENT

The open session Meeting is videotaped for cablecast on Metro Cable 14. Replay on Saturday, March 1 at 10:30 AM and Monday, March 3 at 6:00 PM on Channel 14; Webcast at www.sacmetroable.tv. A VHS copy is also available for checkout from any library branch.

**PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN
DISTRICT JURISDICTION INCLUDING ITEMS ON OR NOT ON THE AGENDA**

COMBAT CHALLENGE TEAM

Deputy Chief Geoff Miller introduced the on-duty District members of the Combat Challenge Team present tonight: Walt White, Jeremy Crawford, Janice Odestig, and Holly Wagner. Kevin Wegener, Ryan Pittman, and Catherine Van Horn were not present. The team placed No. 3 in the world.

Battalion Chief Walt White stated the challenges encourage fitness while showcasing the physical demands of the job and are a significant event in the Fire Service. It is comprised of five frequent and critical fire ground tasks and the goal is to complete those as quickly as possible. The team takes pride in its accomplishment to compete at the highest level without the use of public funds. They have been sponsored through Labor and the Association to help cover some of the competition expenses and the rest is covered out of pocket.

A plaque received by each team member was displayed to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA:**1. Board Meeting Action Summary—February 14, 2008****• Board Action:**

Granados/Clark—approve the Consent Agenda. ROLL CALL: Directors Clark, Goold, Granados, Lawson, Trujillo, Valley, AYE. Director Kelly, abstained. Directors Engellenner, Jones, absent. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM(S):**1. Resolution No. 37-08—Provide Funds for “Dry Period Funding” of the District’s Flexible Benefit Plan—(Sponable)**

- Per District labor contracts, the District offers a flexible spending plan. This flexible spending plan is a self-administered plan that requires the District to hold funds in an independent bank account which is held at American River Bank. Currently, this bank account is funded with employee contributions from payroll deductions. The participating employees are then allowed to be reimbursed for medical and dependent care expenses on a tax-exempt basis.

Due to new benefits that have been made available this year wherein employees may elect to be reimbursed for their entire annual election for health care at anytime during the plan year, it is difficult to keep this account funded at an acceptable level. The District’s flexible benefits provider, Sheakley Uniservice, Inc., recommended additional funding of the account in order to prevent continual stoppage of reimbursements and to keep the account balance positive.

Staff has increased the claim period from 12 to 15 months and added a debit card system to assist employees in filing their claims within IRS limits and avoiding the funds reverting to the District if unused.

- Staff recommended adoption of the resolution authorizing the establishment of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Flexible Benefit Reimbursements checking account for the funding of the “dry period” reimbursements of flexible spending plan benefits, in the amount of \$15,000.
- **Board Action:**
Goold/Granados—adopt the resolution. ROLL CALL: Directors Clark, Goold, Granados, Kelly, Lawson, Trujillo, Valley, AYE. Directors Engellenner, Jones, absent. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION ITEMS(S):**1. Notice of Intent to Purchase Authorized Replacement Ambulances—(Fleet Manager Fred Beno)**

- The Vehicle Replacement Master Plan for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 includes the purchase of four authorized ambulances. This report is notice of intent to purchase two ambulances using its five-year purchase agreement with Medtec Ambulance Corporation. The Board approved the purchase of the other two units with funds from last year's budget due to Ford's announcement to discontinue the E-450 chassis for 2008.
- The fiscal impact to the District for the 2007/2008 year is \$257,449.24.
- **Board Action:**
For information only.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—(Trujillo)

- The Executive Committee met with Counsel on February 25 in Closed Session with no action taken.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—(Mette)

- March 12, 2008, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Rancho Cordova City Hall – 2008 Annual Awards Luncheon. Honorees include 25, 30 and 35 Years of Service Award Recipients, Employees of the Year, Media Recognition, Peer Recognition, Medal of Valor recipients, and Company and Employee Commendations.
- February 19, 2008 – Assistant Chief Greg Mugartegui was honored as the Firefighter of the Year by the Rancho Cordova Rotary Club. Fire Chief Mette, Deputy Chiefs Miller and Eastman were in attendance at the Elk's Lodge in Rancho Cordova for the presentation.
- The Firefighters Burn Institute "Fill the Boot" was a big success. The Citrus Heights event collected over \$135,000 from February 15 through February 18. The Fire Chief's Challenge raised \$11,349.57; the trophy belongs to Metro Fire with donations of \$6,144.87 raised by Fire Chief Mette. Statewide donations totaled over \$426,000.

President Trujillo stated he and Director Lawson took a picture with the Fire Chief's trophy prior to the Challenge and it may have been an omen. Second place was \$1,800. Chief Mette did a fantastic job and it is setting the goal high for next year. We are going to work hard to make sure that trophy stays here. It will be a win-win situation for the Burn Center and Patty Neifer for her great efforts.

- The Cosumnes Community Services District is downsizing from two battalions to one in an effort to deal with their budget situation.
- Working with lobbyist, Ralph Heim, on the introduction of Assembly Bill #2278 by Assembly Member Aghazarian amending the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to annexations. It significantly improves Sacramento Metro Fire's ability to influence the outcome of annexation efforts by the Cities of Folsom and Sacramento. This bill supported by the California Fire Chiefs' Association, California Professional Firefighters, and the Fire Districts Association of California was introduced on February 21, 2008. Board will be kept informed.
- March 8, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at Radisson Hotel – Retirement Dinner to honor 31 personnel who retired in 2007.
- **OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT –**
Deputy Chief Geoff Miller reported on the following:
 - Combat Challenge Team –**
Introduced Kevin Wegener, a late arrival.
 - Incident Report –**
Seven working structure and two grass fires since the last Board meeting.
 - Field Saves**
Gathering information Director Goold requested at the last meeting.

This morning Engine 25 and Medic 27 were dispatched to a child birth. When the baby was placed in the medic, it was not breathing and had no heart beat. The baby was rushed to Mercy San Juan Hospital and is alive and well through the concerted efforts of both paramedics and the engineer.
 - Command Training Center at Station 106 –**
Fully functional state-of-the-art training center. Two modules delivered were well received. In each module, every line person goes through the training with the crews they normally work with and their Battalion Chief. Invited interested members to tour the facility.

- **SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION REPORT –**

Deputy Chief Jim Eastman updated the Board on the various divisions:

- **Information Technology –**

XP deployment ongoing; web staff is running; surplus equipment to be picked up by March 4; moving forward on hands-free cell phone usage for employees.

- **Fleet Division –**

Outfitting the three new Pearce engines and starting to process the six new medic units. Grass rigs to be readied for the wildland season, along with the tow vehicle and dozer.

- **Logistics Division –**

Preparing to work with the Air Show at Mather on March 15 and 16. Completed inventory of all items in the warehouse and getting ready to test a computer database for an accurate record.

- **Facilities Division –**

Station 106 kitchen remodel/ADA improvements continuing; Station 58 ramp improvements to support the dozer and the support vehicle almost complete; Station 110 asphalt work will begin dependent on weather; District staff met with operations personnel working with the architect to discuss options for the renovation at Station 23; next project will be the remodel and repair of Station 109.

- **New Construction – Project Manager – Pat Monahan**

Station 29 – construction in progress; working on the Station 61 project with City of Rancho Cordova to deal with asbestos process before moving on.

- **Community Risk Reduction –**

Recently completed the Supervisors/Inspectors test with three successful candidates—announcement pending; participated with Community Services with a Citrus Heights Mobile Home Park for a Smoke Detector Program along with the Blight Busters recently held in Rancho Cordova; preparing for the fire works process; Mervyn's at the Florin Town Center opened today; WalMart is under construction in that same vicinity; continuing site work at Safeway Market at Hazel and Madison.

- **Community Services**

Two personnel attended a conference on bridging strategies to prevent child injury.

- Fire Chief Mette requested Director Lawson schedule a Policy Committee meeting to consider a policy on charging fees for fire works that will go to the full Board. The fees have been waived for groups tied to a community group or church but other agencies are charging for the services they provide.

The cost for firework shows is around \$11,000 for the personnel assigned to work there and inspections.

Director Lawson requested something be submitted to the Policy Committee for review and recommendation back to the Board.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT—(Margarita) None

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS:

Executive Committee—(Trujillo)

- Next Meeting: TBD

Communications Center Delegate—(Valley)

- Reported on the last meeting. Anticipate a report from the City of Sacramento at the March 25th meeting on its participation in the JPA. The City is still trying to get the Comm Center JPA to go with its Police Dispatch facility.

Fire Chief Mette stated that presents a myriad of problems but the City has until April 1st to give notice; otherwise the City is in for another year.

- Next Meeting: March 25, 2008 – 10:30 PM

California Fire & Rescue Training Authority—(Valley)

- Director Valley briefed the Board on a handout relative to OES transfer of fixed assets.
- Next meeting: April 2, 2008 – 10:00 AM

Finance Committee—(Jones)

- Next meeting: March 13, 2008 – 5:00 PM

Policy Committee—(Lawson)

- Next meeting: February 28, 2008 – 5:00 PM – Cancelled.
March 27, 2008 – 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**Goold:**

- Directed a question to Director Valley relative to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department looking to partner with the Comm Center on a joint venture with CAD. Encouraged discussion with the Sheriff's Department as a possible way to save significant dollars in bidding out the CAD system.
- Appreciated the updates from the Division Chiefs relative to their functions. Requested an update from the Economic Development Department whenever there is something significant to report.
- Extended kudos to everyone involved in the Fill the Boot event. This is a significant shining star of the Sacramento region.
- Important for this body to remember that we are policy makers, not commanders.

Granados:

- Fill the Boot was a great event and he participated. There are a huge number of volunteers behind the scenes that contribute to its success.
- Expressed to Fire Chief Mette an interest in being notified to attend the hearing on Assembly Bill 2278 whenever it is scheduled.
- Thanked Randy Wooten for sending him an old Rancho Cordova Fire Protection District envelope with the old Station 61 address along with some pictures of him from 25 years ago when he participated in the canoe race with the City of Sacramento.
- There was another article in the Sacramento Bee that attacked the Department, staff, and others. He expressed total confidence in the Fire Chief and Counsels that were hired to guide the District through these challenges.

Valley:

- Responded to Director Goold stating the Sheriff's Department tried to partner with the Police Department but that fell apart. Many times the dispatch system is not compatible. Need to be careful of others that are unable to fund their own system but the question can be asked if the full Board gives him direction.

Director Goold stated it was a suggestion and not direction to negotiate because the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is interested in partnering.

Fire Chief Mette stated we can make the contact and throw the subject out there.

- Thanked Fire Chief Mette for a good job on "Fill the Boot."

Kelly:

- Thanked Director Valley for covering the Fire and Rescue Training JPA meeting in his absence.
- The last time this Board met, the meeting was closed with a moment of silence for his mother. He wanted everyone to know that he appreciated that very much.

Lawson:

- Added a caveat to a comment regarding support of the leadership of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. We should include the Board of Directors who are responsible for the direction of policies and ensuring that our constituents in the County receive the top service we can provide them.
- Congratulated the Combat Challenge Team.
- Will be out of town during the retirement event and wanted to thank all those retiring for the combined years of service given to our constituents and wished them well.
- Thanked those that gave reports tonight.
- Congratulated Fire Chief Mette for his efforts and everyone who donated to the Burn Institute's "Fill the Boot" function.

Trujillo:

- Thanked staff, Deputy Chiefs Miller and Eastman, and Finance Director Sponable for their excellent reports.
- Commented on the Combat Challenge Team. He felt we have the best men and women in the Fire Service and thanked them for their service to this District.

- Fire Chief Mette did a great job with “Fill the Boot.” He set the bar high and we will try to keep the trophy here at Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. The donations go to a great cause. He thanked the Sacramento Sierra Building Trades, the Napa Solano Building Trades, the Pipefitters in Fresno and Vallejo, California, and the Sacramento Central Labor Council for their donations.
- Congratulated Assistant Chief Greg Mugartegui.
- Emphasized the importance for staff to return calls to any Board member.

CLOSED SESSION GOVERNMENT CODES:**1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
Legal Counsel Joe Salazar

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) – Two (2) Cases

A. Teresa Means-Ferguson vs. Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
Sacramento County Superior Court Action No. 07AS02810

Deleted.

B. Irene Yslas vs Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
Sacramento County Superior Court Action No. 07AS02789

Deleted.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Ray Trujillo, President

Gregory A. Granados, Secretary

Charlotte Tilson, Clerk of the Board